



February 13, 2012

To the Yorktown High School Community:

We are following up on recent concerns about the design of the gymnasium and swimming pool in Phase 2 of Yorktown High School.

We are very proud of our new school, and we know the students and faculty are pleased to have a new and modern facility that fosters opportunities for deep understanding and exploration of the curriculum. As with any new facility, there are some issues that require adjustments and various “punch list” items remain to be addressed.

Regarding the gymnasium, APS facilities are built according to Educational Specifications established by the School Board. The Educational Specifications for high school gymnasiums do not call for a specific number of bleacher seats to be provided. Yorktown requested that seating be provided to accommodate all-school assemblies, which are not anticipated in the area provided in the standard educational specifications. To avoid increasing the area of the gymnasium beyond that provided in the Educational Specifications, the greater number of seats required for assemblies is provided by extending the bleachers onto the basketball court, which is of course not used during assemblies. When configured for basketball games, several rows of bleachers remain in the closed position on the visitors’ side. While we understand how people might find the closed bleachers for basketball games a little odd, we believe it is a fair compromise given the need to make the building area as efficient as possible, and we are delighted that the community has such a great new gymnasium.

The swimming pool was designed as a *25-yard* pool in accordance with the Educational Specifications and with the standards established by the High School Athletic League and NCAA. The Yorktown pool has been surveyed and certified by a third-party and documentation has been sent to USA Swimming (USAS), the national organization that oversees Swimming competition in the United States.

Olympic-level swimming pools, on the other hand, are over twice the length of our pool at *50 meters* in length. Building a pool of that size was never part of the School Board Educational Specifications or budget and Yorktown High School did not have the space to build such a facility.

We’re very proud of the new Yorktown High School, and we all agree that it will serve the community well for many years to come.

Sincerely,

John C. Chadwick, AIA, RIBA
Director, Design and Construction

cc: Arlington School Board
Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent
Dr. Ray Pasi, Principal, Yorktown High School
Clarence Stukes, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities & Operations